

## AN IOWA MOTHER

## Who Had Eleven Sons in the U. S. Army—Their Record.

The records of history probably contain no more remarkable example of patriotic devotion than that to which reference is made in the letter which follows. The mother of eleven boys, all of whom have served full terms in the Union army, and ten of whom have been honorably discharged or killed in action, petitions the Secretary of War that the eleventh son, now serving a re-enlistment, may be discharged from the regular army, in order to be a "prop and support" to his mother's rapidly declining years. The letter tells its own story:

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., Feb. 11, 1879.

The Hon. N. O. Deering House of Representatives.

SIR: I have considered the petition of Mrs. Elizabeth Upright, of Butler County, Iowa, praying the discharge from the military service of her son, N. M. Merchant, Battery B, 4th Artillery, which petition was presented by you and is concurred in by numerous citizens. The discharge of this soldier is asked by the petitioner, who says she is seventy-two years old, on the ground that she had ten sons in the Union army during the Rebellion, including one employed as a teamster, and that the one above named, her eleventh and youngest son, has served for over five years in the regular army. She furnishes the names of her sons and a statement of the organizations in which they served.

The papers having been referred to the Adjutant General for an examination of the records with a view to verifying her statements, that officer reports that they are true in every particular.

1. G. W. Merchant was a private in Co. C, Seventy-fourth Illinois Volunteers, afterwards a Lieutenant, and honorably discharged Sept. 26, 1865.

2. Abie L. Merchant was a private in Company C, Fifteenth Illinois Volunteers, and died in service.

3. DeWitt C. Merchant was a private in last named company, and was killed in action July 22, 1864.

4. Euoch Merchant was Corporal in Company F, One Hundred and fifty-sixth Illinois Volunteers, and honorably discharged Sept. 20, 1865.

5. David O. Merchant was a private in Company C, Seventy-fourth Illinois Volunteers, and honorably discharged June 10, 1865.

6. Silas B. Merchant was a private in Company C, Forty-fourth Illinois Volunteers, promoted to First Lieutenant, and resigned Sept. 25, 1864.

7. Arlo J. Merchant was a private in the last named company, and honorably discharged Sept. 25, 1865.

8. Lewis A. Merchant was a private in Company G, Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteers, and honorably discharged Sept. 26, 1864.

9. Aaron Merchant was a private in Company G, Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers, and was killed at Island No. 10, Dec. 26, 1862, by the accidental discharge of a cannon.

10. James B. Merchant teamster in the employ of the Quartermaster's Department.

11. Thomas M. Merchant, enlisted March 3, 1873, as a private in Company B, Sixth United States Cavalry, (regulars), and was discharged March 11, 1878, by reason of expiration of term of Service. He again enlisted May 4, 1878, and was assigned to Battery B, Fourth Artillery, and is now in the service. The discharge of this soldier will be ordered in accordance with his mother's request. Discharges from the army as a matter of favor are not granted except in extraordinary cases, but this is, in my opinion, such a case. Indeed, I doubt whether another like it can be found upon record. But if another mother can be found who gave ten sons to the service of our country during the war, she may confidently ask, and expect to receive, similar favorable consideration. I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

GEORGE W. MCCRARY,  
Secretary of war.

## Another Lincoln Anecdote.

Lincoln, during his term of office, used to secure the support in Congress of many Senators and Representatives by appearing to defer to their superior knowledge of the fitness of candidates for place. He had no choice. Would the statesman be so good as to name a suitable man? Of course, he was named with enthusiasm, and the vicious system by which, latterly, Congressmen were the real appointing power, and the executive simply a register, undoubtedly was strengthened by this practice. It is a melancholy reflection that the President's anxieties were thus increased, and that he was obliged to secure from members of his own party, by these artifices, the support to which he was justly entitled. On one occasion, when rival Congressmen could not agree, and rival interests worried the good old man beyond endurance, a delegation in favor of a certain applicant's claims waited upon him with great solemnity. The spokesman, a person of weight and influence, having in mind the condition of the country—for it was just after the second battle of Bull Run—began somewhere down the ages and traced the course of civil liberty up to that time, showing how the President now bore upon his shoulders the hopes of mankind. Sometimes he (the speaker) feared that the weight would be too much for the President. Lincoln, impatiently interrupting the orator, said: "Oh, I can stand all that. It's this confounded Syracuse post-office that's worrying the life out of me!"

## Brother Thomason's Prayer.

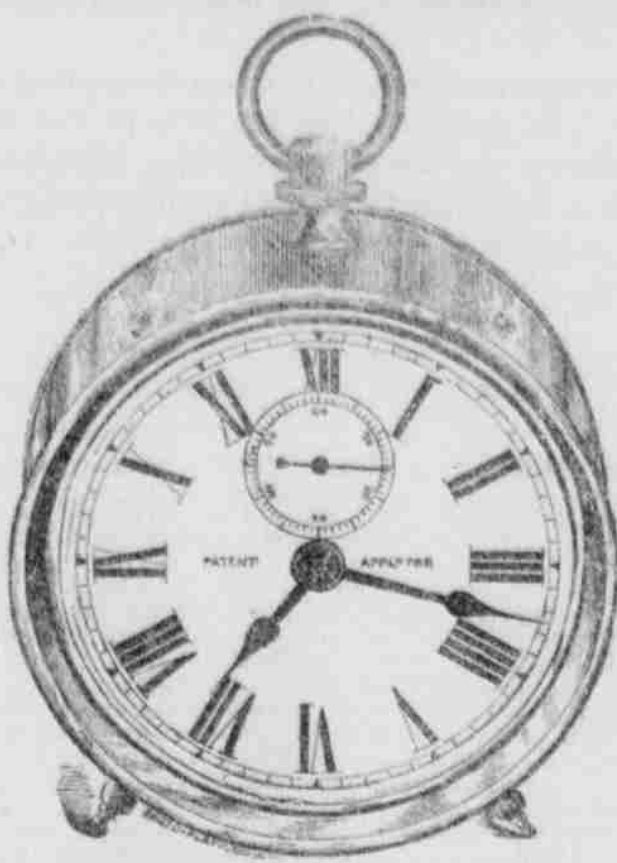
Brother Thomason, who hails from Empire City, Kansas,—he don't say whether he is a minister, deacon, or layman—sends us a very excellent prayer, which we hope will prove most efficacious:

O Lord, our God, the Great God, the Ruler of Empires, Kingdoms, and Governments! Thou of infinite wisdom, know that the Mexican pension bill is defeated. And we believe Thou knowest that the soldiers on the battle-field in Mexico never were defeated, but won for our great and benevolent Government riches in territory and millions in California gold.

And now, O Lord! Congress has granted us a little three months' extra pay for our services. So now bless the President and the Forty-fifth Congress, just a little.

O Thou giver of blessings to the nation of this great people, we hope that soon the new Congress will pass the bill granting pensions to the Mexican soldiers, and then we will bless it, and Thou Who inclined their hearts to do this thing, a great deal. Amen.

## Special Announcement to all Our Friends.



Quite recently we have been enabled, through fortuitous circumstances, to make arrangements for procuring a large supply of those beautiful little gems, of nickel-plated clocks, with heavy plate-glass fronts and stem-winding, which are now so exceedingly popular in the East and wherever used. (See illustration above.) All the movements of this clock are perfect. They are manufactured of the best materials, with polished steel springs, and all the plates are screwed together. In short, this clock, as we state, is a gem, thoroughly reliable as a time keeper, and admirably fitted to grace any mantle, shelf, or stand in any parlor, dining, or sleeping room. Now, having related these unquestionable facts pertaining to this clock, which we designate as "THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE" Clock, we beg leave to impress it upon the minds of all readers, that owing to special arrangements, we are enabled to offer to any and all "The National Tribune Clock" and "The National Tribune Newspaper" for the unprecedented low price of \$1.75. In clubs of ten or more subscribers desiring a clock and paper we will allow one extra clock and paper, for the getting up of every said club of ten. The clock and paper will be sold, under no circumstances, for less than one dollar and seventy-five cents, whether in orders for one or a hundred, and in all cases of so ordering, parties must pay the freight, the amount of which will be but a trifle. No fears need be entertained of a breakage of the clock or disarrangement of its parts by transportation. Thus, we give you a superior clock and an excellent newspaper, of special interest to the thousands of soldiers of the country, concerning their patriotism, their rights, and their pockets, while the general news it publishes relating to matters at Washington, its social gossip, lively sketches, choice selections, &c., will render it a welcome guest in every family circle. Now, here is a prospectus for some good, profitable business, which soldiers especially could make a great success. Almost every householder would buy one of these clocks, even if he had several on hand, and those who have none, would surely buy. Go to work then and get up your clubs. Think of it. A beautiful family clock, entirely reliable, and an interesting family newspaper, both for one dollar and seventy-five cents, together with an extra clock and newspaper for every getter up of a club of ten. Eleven clocks and eleven newspapers for seventeen dollars and fifty cents. Remit by money orders, which can be obtained at almost every U. S. Post Office, by registered letter, by draft on New York, or by express. Specimen of paper sent free. Address at once.

"THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE COMPANY,"  
Washington, D. C.

The attention of the former clients of B. F. Pritchard, Esq., of Indianapolis, Indiana, who have not written to me since December, 1876, is again called to the following:

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., NOV. 13, 1876.  
GEORGE E. LEMON, Esq., Washington, D. C.:  
DEAR SIR—You are hereby authorized to notify each of my clients that I have transferred to you all their claims, evidences, &c., and that it is my desire that they should correspond with you hereafter, and forward such evidence as you may need to complete their claims.  
(Signed) B. F. PRITCHARD.

This proposed transfer was submitted to the Hon. Z. Chandler, Secretary of the Interior, for his consideration and action. The following extract from his letter, written to the Hon. J. A. Bentley, Commissioner of Pensions, explains itself, and to it your attention is invited:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, D. C., December 6, 1876.

In view of the peculiar state of facts existing in the case, and the good standing of Mr. Lemon as an attorney before this Department, as well as his apparent good faith in this entire transaction, I am of the opinion that it would be proper to allow the transfer to be made.

Z. CHANDLER.

In accordance with the foregoing, the Hon. J. A. Bentley, Commissioner of Pensions, issued an order recognizing me in all cases filed by Mr. Pritchard prior to October 6, 1876; wherein he hath the power of substitution.

The following is told of Gen. Pelissier: Some years ago Pelissier, on parade one morning, got angry with a sous-officer of a cavalry regiment, whose tenue seemed to him quite defective. He abused the man most violently, and cut him across the face with his whip. The man seized one of his pistols and endeavored to fire at his commanding officer, but the pistol missed fire. Pelissier, swearing a fearful oath, but otherwise calm, said, "Fellow, I order you a three days' arrest for not having your arms in better order!"

## Important to Readers—Observe this Carefully.

The Americans are a nation of readers. Many ladies and gentlemen take half a dozen newspapers and magazines, and yet demand more. Are they fully supplied unless a patron of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, a journal specially devoted to the interests of the soldiers of the country, their only and immediate organ in the United States, and containing at the same time general and spicy news and information which readers will relish.

Now, in order to accommodate all who desire our paper, we have made arrangements to furnish it and others having a national reputation at the following rates:

## THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE and—

Advance, Chicago.....	\$2 90
American, Baltimore.....	1 50
Agriculturist, New York.....	1 50
Andrews' Bazar, Cincinnati.....	1 30
Advocate, Christian, St. Louis.....	2 50
Appleton's Journal, New York.....	2 75
Appleton's Popular Science, New York.....	4 25
Benham's Review, Indianapolis.....	1 25
Banner of Light, Boston.....	3 15
Ballou's Magazine, Boston.....	75
Blade, Toledo.....	1 00
Cultivator, Albany.....	1 50
Cultivator, Boston.....	2 00
Church's Musical Visitor, Cincinnati.....	1 50
Commercial Advertiser, Detroit.....	2 00
Contributor, Boston.....	1 10
Cottage Hearth, Boston.....	1 10
Christian at Work, New York.....	2 10
Christian Weekly, Illustrated, New York.....	2 30
Courier-Journal, Louisville.....	1 75
Detroit Free Press.....	1 75
Demorest's Monthly Magazine, New York.....	2 50
Danbury News, Danbury.....	2 10
Every Body's Paper, Chicago.....	70
Enquirer, Cincinnati.....	1 50
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly, New York.....	3 50
Chimney Corner, New York.....	3 50
Lady's Journal, New York.....	3 50
Sunday Magazine, New York.....	2 75
Boy's and Girl's Weekly, New York.....	2 25
Popular Monthly, New York.....	2 75
Budget of Wit, New York.....	1 50
Forest and Stream, New York.....	3 50
Farmer's Friend, Mechanicsburg, Pa.....	1 60
Fur, Fin and Feather, New York.....	2 00
Floral Cabinet, New York.....	1 50
Fireside Companion, New York.....	2 50
Farmers' Home Journal, Louisville.....	1 75
Globe, Boston.....	1 30
Graphic, (illustrated,) New York.....	2 25
Goody's Lady Book, Philadelphia.....	2 00
Hawkeye, Burlington.....	1 75
Home and Farm, Louisville.....	90
Harper's Weekly, New York.....	3 70
Bazar, New York.....	3 70
Monthly, New York.....	3 50
Home Magazine, Athens.....	2 25
Illinois Staats Zeitung, Chicago.....	1 75
In Door and Out, Chicago.....	1 00
Indiana Farmer, Indianapolis.....	2 00
Indianapolis Journal, Indianapolis.....	1 50
Irish American, New York.....	2 50
Independent, (with valuable premiums,) New York.....	3 00
Interior, Chicago.....	2 25
Inter-Ocean, Chicago.....	1 55
Journal of Agriculture, St. Louis.....	1 70
Journal of Chemistry, Boston.....	1 15
Kansas Farmer, Topeka.....	1 90
Living Age, Boston.....	7 25
Methodist, New York.....	2 20
Musical World, Cincinnati.....	1 50
National Sunday School Teacher, Chicago.....	1 50
Nation, New York.....	5 20
New York Sun, (weekly).....	1 50
Evening Post, (weekly).....	1 60
Herald, (weekly).....	1 40
World, (weekly).....	1 40
Times, (weekly).....	1 50
News, (weekly).....	1 40
Observer, (weekly).....	2 65
National Baptist, Philadelphia.....	2 75
Nursery, Boston.....	1 60
Odd Fellows' Companion, Columbus.....	1 25
Public Leader, Detroit.....	1 75
Prairie Farmer, Chicago.....	2 00
Republican, Springfield.....	2 00
Republican Press, Concord.....	2 00
Sentinel, Indianapolis.....	1 40
Standard, Chicago.....	2 70
Saturday Journal, New York.....	2 50
Scientific American, New York.....	3 40
Scientific Farmer, Boston.....	1 20
Scribner's Monthly, New York.....	3 70
St. Nicholas, New York.....	2 90
Star Spangled Banner, Hinsdale, N. H.....	85
Sunday School Times, Philadelphia.....	2 15
Times, Chicago, (weekly).....	1 75
Tribune, Chicago, (weekly).....	1 50
Times, Philadelphia.....	1 75

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Now, we specially call upon the soldiers to help us in the work of enlarging our subscription list by the means here presented. It can readily be done, if they will put their shoulders to the wheel. If they regard it as their paper—which it is, most emphatically—they will feel a pride in its success.

The larger our subscription list, the more money we can afford to expend in making it an additionally attractive sheet.

We would like to hear from any soldiers, North, South, East, or West, who would be pleased to labor in the cause. Let us hear from you, boys.

Address at once

"THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE COMPANY,"  
Washington, D. C.